

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of October 6, 2003.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-2, 6, 14-15, 17, 20-21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Osada (JP05125150).

Claims 13, 16, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Okamura (US 4,668,960).

Claims 3-4, and 7-8 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osada (JP05125150) in view of Umeda (US5,800,076).

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 13-17, and 20-23 remain in this application.

Claims 1, 13, and 17 have been amended.

Claims 13, 16, and 22 are in Condition for Allowance:

Claim 13 has been amended to include a limitation of a thermal printing system. It is respectfully submitted that claim 13 and claims 16 and 22 dependent on claim 13 distinguish patentably and unobviously over Osada and Okamura, taken singularly or in combination.

Claims 2-4, 14-15, and 21 are in Condition for Allowance:

Claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation of a thermal printing system and all the limitations of claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-4, 14-15, and 21 dependent on claim 1 distinguish patentably and unobviously over Osada, Okamura and Umeda, taken singularly or in combination.

Claims 17, 6-8, 20, and 23 are in Condition for Allowance:

Claim 17 has been amended to include a limitation of a thermal printing system and all the limitations of claim 13. It is respectfully submitted that claim 17 and claims 6-8, 20, and 23 dependent on claim 17 distinguish patentably and unobviously over Osada, Okamura and Umeda, taken singularly or in combination.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-4, 6-8, 13-17, and 20-23) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment D. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Marina Zalevsky, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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